AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated hereafter. [Use ~~strikethrough~~ for deleted matter and underlined for added matter.]

1. (Currently Amended) A system for attenuating leakage signals in a communication system, comprising[[;]] :

a plurality of amplifiers coupled between a plurality of communication connections and a communication device, at least one of said plurality of amplifiers configured to have a nearly-zero impedance characteristic such that at least one leakage signal originating on a first communication connection of said plurality of communication connections cannot propagate from said first communication connection to a second communication connection of said plurality of communication connections.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of said plurality of amplifiers is configured as a negative feedback amplifier.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a second plurality of amplifiers, said second plurality of amplifiers coupled between a second plurality of communication connections and said communication device.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of said plurality of communications connections is a digital subscriber loop.

5. (Original) A method for shunting leakage signals in a communication system, the method comprising the steps of:

coupling at least one amplifier between a first communication connection and a communication device, said amplifier having a nearly-zero impedance characteristic; and

shunting at least one leakage signal originating on said first communication connection away from a second communication connection coupled to said communication device.

6. (Original) A system for shunting leakage signals in a communication system, comprising:

means for shunting, said means for shunting having a nearly-zero impedance characteristic; and

means for coupling said shunting means to a first communication connection and a communication device,

such that said shunting means prevents at least one leakage signal originating on said first communication connection from propagating to a second communication connection coupled to said communication device.

7. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein said coupling means further couples said second communication connection to said shunting means.

8. (Currently Amended) A system for attenuating leakage signals in a communication system, comprising[[;]] :

a communication device; and

a plurality of amplifiers, said plurality of amplifiers coupled between a plurality of communication connections and said communication device,

wherein said plurality of amplifiers have a nearly-zero impedance characteristic such that at least one leakage signal originating on a first communication connection coupled to said communication device cannot propagate from said first communication connection to a second communication connection coupled to said communication device.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8, wherein said communication device time multiplexes ~~said~~ a plurality of signals onto a single channel.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8, wherein said communication device frequency multiplexes ~~said~~ a plurality of signals onto a plurality of channels.

11. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein said communication device is a signal multiplexing communication device.

12. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein said first communication connection is physically coupled to said second communication connection.

13. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein said plurality of communication connections are physically coupled together.

14. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein said plurality of communication connections are physically coupled to said communication device.

15. (New) The system of claim 8, wherein said first communication connection is physically coupled to said second communication connection.

16. (New) The system of claim 8, wherein said plurality of communication connections are physically coupled together.

17. (New) The system of claim 8, wherein said plurality of communication connections are physically coupled to said communication device.